

A CALL TO DUTY.

JAMES W. GOCHENOUR.

At this season of the year many of the churches throughout the brotherhood are making appointments for protracted meetings, and are engaging ministers to conduct these services with the view of putting forth special efforts for the conversion of sinners.

Now let us not forget that God has said, "Without me ye can do nothing." "Ask and ye shall receive," and "those that seek me early shall find me." The date for these meetings may be two, four or six months in the future, and should not be dismissed from our minds until the time arrives. But every brother and sister should at once begin to make the prospective services a subject of daily prayer, that our friends and neighbors may be brought to Christ. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." If the prayer of one faithful saint has the power with God, what might we not expect to receive, if the entire membership would unite in asking the Lord for the accomplishment of the same object. God always works with his people who work, and if we are right, faithful, devoted and prayerful, I believe that the desired blessing will follow our prayers no matter by whom the message of heaven is declared to the sinner.

It was the practice of God's people in ancient times to unite their forces in prayer for definite purposes. When Jehoshaphat, king of Judah was appraised that the children Moab and Ammon, with others, were coming against him to battle, "he set himself to seek the Lord and proclaim him a fast." And Judah gathered themselves together to ask help of the Lord, even out of the cities of Judah they come and seek the Lord. II Chron. 20: 4. The result was that God answered these prayers and gave them the victory over these enemies. Coming down to the present dispensation we have similar examples of immediate answer to prayer. When Peter was imprisoned "prayer was made without ceasing, of the church delivered out of prison and came unexpectedly to the house of Mark, "Where many were gathered together praying."

Our Savior's work here on earth was always prefaced with prayer. Before choosing his twelve apostles he spent the whole previous night in the mountain communing with God. If he felt the need of his Father's help in fulfilling his mission, how much less should we attempt to accomplish anything good on our own strength. He came into the world and took the place of the meek and lowly. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me be-

cause he hath anointed me to read the Gospel for myself and for others. This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears." The world should be glad for this message that the Gospel has been brought to the poor. Hath not God chosen the poor out of this world rich in faith and heirs of that kingdom which he hath promised to them to love him? James 2: 5.

Then in conclusion let us follow the language from our Savior's lips, encourage us to be greater diligent in prayer. "Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." Mark 11: 24.

REPENTANCE, FAITH AND BAPTISM.

LEAH HAVENS.

Are these three words connected with the Brethren church? If repentance takes the lead then we should first teach it, preach it, and live it. We as Christians should try to show to sinners their lost condition, for never has a sinner returned to his Father's house until he has fully realized his lost condition. I do not understand that we are to come to a place where we are only to promise God that we will do better, for what are we going to do with those awful things we have already done? Oh yes, it is a great deal easier to say, I will do better, than to say, I am sorry for what I have done. But are we looking for easy work? I thank God for the day when he showed me the dark side of my life. I had not the courage to promise him what I would do, for I never had honored him, and how could he trust me? But I felt my weakness as the poor Publican did. I needed a Saviour to do those things that I could not do. God is true and we should trust him rather than ask him to trust us. We should not be bankrupt Christians. The old debt must be paid, then the Lord will trust us and we will do our best to please our Father in heaven. The atoning blood will save no one unless it is applied.

We must not be Pharisees. It is when we feel our weakness that we are made strong. Even when we have become his children we can do nothing good of ourselves, it has been only a few months that I said to my husband, it seems to me that I have tried many ways to persuade you to be a Christian, but there is only one thing that I can do; pray for you and trust the Lord to do the rest, for I am too weak. But the Lord did not turn a deaf ear unto me, but has lifted me up and showed unto him that he was in a dangerous condition. Jesus is our burden bearer, he understands them, he passed through Gethsemane. He bore the cross.

If we are following him we must do the same and we need not go alone. We will have the shadow with the sunshine, and we should not deceive sinners by telling them all is bright. True we should not see the shadow if we only walked nearer our God, but we serve him at such a distance, the shadow falls between us and then of course we see it. When we pass through trial with Jesus by our side we never get into trouble. This is the way the Saviour went through this world with out sin. He kept very near his Father. When I see how little of good I have done for the Master, I am very glad that I did not make any great promises, but in the strength of the Lord I hope I may do more to lead sinners to Christ, as it is a debt I owe to them and my God.

FAITH

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith should follow repentance. Faith that we are saved. Now the evidence of the Holy Spirit through the word that we are the children of God, and that the devil has no claim on us, for we are none of his. Blessed hope, is it worth living for? yes, it is worth dying for. The Christian would not exchange. Let us not be selfish, but remember within all mankind is created the image of God.

BAPTISM

Baptism is necessary to fulfil all righteousness, but we must be very careful or the world will get the opinion that we believe that baptism fills us full of righteousness. So let us teach, preach and live. Live of repentance and faith as well as baptism. We want the sinner, we should live for them. Jesus Christ died for sinners. Can we not live for them.

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A PICTURE OF DOMESTIC FELICITY.

A man ran out of a shop on Tremont Street and hailed a Franklin Park car. Behind him came a young woman with a baby in her arms and a two-year-old toddler clinging to her dress skirt. The car stopped, the man jumped the young woman into an end seat, handed her the toddler, affectionately kissed each one, the baby included, and then skipped back to the sidewalk before the conductor could say Boo! The young woman glanced smilingly after the man to see if he was all right, then settled baby on her lap and snuggled toddler close to her side, the picture of contentment. It was such an unusual exhibition of domestic bliss that the prosaic passengers on the same seat looked over the top of their newspapers to examine the young woman to see if she could be worth all the demonstration. She was. And the cleanly dressed babies were worth it, too.